



DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW GENUS AND THREE NEW SPECIES OF AUSTRALIAN *TENEBRIONIDÆ* FROM BARRINGTON TOPS, NEW SOUTH WALES.

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A week's visit at Christmas, 1915, to a region new to the collector, and little known to the tourist—Barrington Tops—revealed a mountain-district of above 5,000 feet altitude, that combines many of the characters of Kosciusko and Dorrigo. Situated some thirty-seven miles north-west of Dungog, this highland should prove an interesting field to the naturalist. Of volcanic origin, the rich soil possesses a magnificent forest, in parts approaching jungle, the higher slopes containing a rich brush, mainly composed of the beautiful *Fagus Moorei*. While the general collecting was a little meagre, due to the long preceding dry weather, the results were specially rich in Carabidæ, while three new species of Tenebrionidæ were taken, including one which requires a new genus for its reception.

SLOANEA, n.gen. Tenebrioninarum.

Wide, depressed, with the facies of *Cryptodus*. Labrum emarginate and ciliate; mentum cordate, last joint of all palpi securiform; mandibles grooved, forked at apex. Eyes small and transverse. Antennæ with the last four joints flattened and successively wider, the three penultimate joints transverse, last joint subcircular. Prosternum convex, its process arched downwards at apex, and received into a triangular receptacle of the mesosternum; mesosternum short, body apterous; elytra costate, widely rounded behind, epipleuræ wide and horizontal; precoxæ globose, middle coxæ rounded. Legs short and stout; tibiæ much enlarged at apex, fore- and midtibiæ serrated externally. In the ♂, the tibiæ, especially the foretibiæ, strongly bent inward

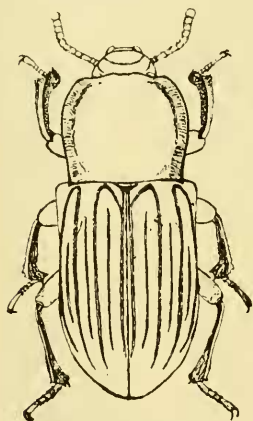
at apex. Tarsi tomentose, the claw-joint nearly as long as the rest combined, the first longer than the second, intercoxal process wide, rounded in front and carinate at margins.

A genus not very near any existing Australian genus of the Tenebrionidæ. The head and thorax are somewhat as in *Asphalus* Pasc., but with a very different structure of leg, and elytral sculpture.

SLOANEA COSTATA, n.sp.

Ovate, depressed, glabrous, opaque brownish-black above, nitid beneath; palpi, tarsi, and apical joints of antennæ reddish, the tarsi clothed with red tomentum.

Head trapeziform, densely and finely punctate, the sides slightly raised behind and arcuate; epistoma convex, straight in front and limited behind by a straight, obscure depression; antennæ



Text-fig. 1.
S. costata, n.sp.

with basal joints nitid and bead-like, third joint slightly longer than fourth, the last four opaque and hairy. *Prothorax* 6.5 × 7 mm., widest in front of middle, trisinate at apex, the middle with a wide triangular insertion, anterior angles widely rounded and feebly produced, sides slightly rounded on anterior half, sinuately narrowed behind, posterior angles acute, a little deflexed and produced, base bisinate; foliate margins concave within, extreme border narrowly raised, continued on apex, widened at the posterior angles, obsolete at base, surface finely and closely punctate on disc, the punctures

subobsolete in the middle, coarser on sides and base, the foliate margins and regions near posterior angles coarsely rugose, a fine medial line sometimes traceable. *Scutellum* forming a strongly transverse, smooth ridge. *Elytra* wider than prothorax at base and not quite twice as long; shoulders prominent, squarely rounded and formed by the reflexed epipleural fold, sides feebly widened

behind, apex widely rounded; each elytron with seven, shining, very slightly crenulate costæ, the first (sutural), third, fifth, and seventh wider than the others, terminating before the apex, the second, fourth, and sixth narrower and terminating considerably in front of these, the first, third, and seventh only extending to base, the sutural costæ bifurcating some distance behind the scutellum to meet the third costæ, but also narrowly extending in a straight line to the middle of the scutellum; on the wide interval between the seventh costæ and the margin a further, short, ill-defined ridge; all intervals opaque and rugose-punctate. Underside glabrous, submentum and prosternum coarsely, abdomen more finely but densely punctate. Femora stout, finely punctate, tibiæ rugose. In the ♂, the fore-tibiæ bent at right angles inwards near apex, with a triangular external emargination, all tibiæ sulcate externally, and with two short spines at apex. Tibiæ of ♀ nearly straight. *Dimensions*: ♂, 17 × 8; ♀, 20 × 9 mm.

Hab.—Barrington Tops, 37 miles north-west of Dungog; altitude, 4,000-5,000 feet.

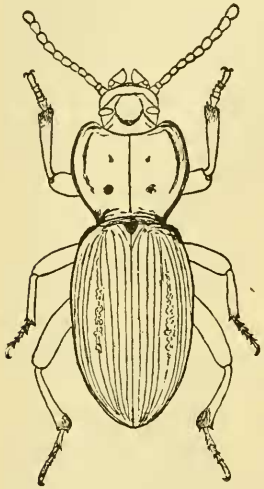
Seven specimens of this interesting insect taken by Messrs. Sloane, Musgrave, and myself in the beautiful beech-forests (*Fagus Moorei*) that clothe the basalt mountain. It occurred in company with *Pamborus pradierei* Chaud., and *Lissapterus pelorides* Westw., in or under the rotten logs of the *Fagus*; and seems to be peculiar to this district. I know nothing very near it, and place it with some diffidence in this subfamily. I have much pleasure in giving the generic name in honour of my friend and frequent companion on entomological quests, who found the first specimen. Type in the author's Coll.

CARDIOTHORAX INTERSTITIALIS, n.sp.

Elongate-ovate; head and thorax subopaque bronze-black; elytra dark bronze, underside and legs nitid-black, tarsi and apex of tibiæ with short, red hairs.

Head wide, smooth; epistoma rounded in front, its suture straight, the usual frontal impression well marked; widened and raised in front of eyes, antennæ very stout, joints pear-shaped,

8-10 gradually wider and rounded, eleventh ovate, acuminate. *Prothorax* 5 × 7 mm., cordate and flat, widest at middle; apex semicircularly emarginate, anterior angles strongly produced and rounded; sides well rounded, strongly narrowed behind and sinuate before the dentate posterior angles, these deflexed and outwardly directed, base arcuate; foliate margins wide and a little upturned, with a wide, shallow, separating sulcus on anterior half, extreme border narrow and reflexed throughout; disc smooth, with



Text-fig.2.

C. interstitialis, n.sp.

four small foveæ, two on each side of the thin, well defined, medial channel; sometimes with other irregular impressions. *Scutellum* triangular, smooth. *Elytra* considerably wider than prothorax at base, and nearly thrice as long, shoulders rather squarely rounded, the epipleural fold well raised in this region, extreme margin sharply raised, with an irregular row of large punctures within this; sulcate, each elytron with nine subcostate intervals, continuous to and sharply ridged on apex, *the sixth interval always broken near the middle*, either flattened, with a few large punctures, or with a chain of irregular ocellate pits formed, the seventh and eighth intervals narrower than the rest. Prosternum

transversely wrinkled, abdomen and femora quite smooth, tibiæ strongly punctate near apex, legs without sexual differentiation. *Dimensions*: 19-21 × 6.5-8 mm.

Hab.—Barrington Tops, N.S.W. (Messrs. T. G. Sloane, Musgrave, and the author).

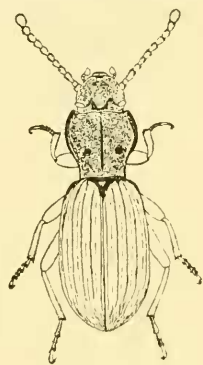
A species occurring very commonly in this region above the 4,000 feet level. I have 30 specimens before me, all of which have the peculiar elytral sculpture noted above, *e.g.*, strongly sulcate, with the sixth interval broken. The species forms a link between some of the more nitid species, like *C. arripennis*

Blackb., and the subopaque species like *C. Haagi* Bates, with the prothorax similar to the latter, and the elytra more like the former; but it is very distinct from any described species, and is one of the largest in the genus. Types in the author's Coll.

CARDIOTHORAX ASPERATUS, n.sp.

Elongate-ovate, brownish-black, opaque.

Head and thorax densely rugosely shagreened; labrum prominent, epistoma incurved in the middle, oblique on sides; suture straight; frontal impression obscure (only indicated by basal ridge); antennæ with joint 3 nearly as long as 4-5 combined, 3-7 subconic, 8-10 oval, 11 very large, ovoid. *Prothorax* 5 × 5 mm., scutiform, widest in front of middle, bisinuate at apex, anterior angles moderately produced and rather sharply rounded, sides slightly rounded anteriorly, then widely sinuately narrowed behind, posterior angles acutely dentate and pointing obliquely outward, base truncate, much narrower than apex, disc with two, wide, shallow depressions and a depressed middle line, the sculpture somewhat reticulate rugose, coarsely so at sides and base. *Scutellum* triangular. *Elytra* ovate, wider than prothorax at base and twice as long, shoulders rounded, epipleural fold reflexed in this region and forming a sharply defined border throughout; punctate-striate, five alternate intervals (including the sutural) finely costate, the edge of costæ very finely crenulate or subnodulose, the latter structure evident in the two sutural costæ, the second, fourth, sixth, and eighth intervals also slightly raised, more distinctly so on apical half, the interspaces filled with rather large, close, transverse punctures; submentum and prosterna very coarsely punctate, the latter bearing scattered setæ, abdomen finely and sparsely granulate and opaque, legs with short, dense hairs, tibiæ scarcely enlarged at apex, with short terminal spines. *Dimensions*: 14-18 × 5-6.5 mm.



Text-fig. 3.
C. asperatus, n.sp.

Hab.—Barrington Tops, N.S.W. (Messrs. Sloane, Musgrave, and the author).

Sixteen specimens taken by the above, belong to the subsquamose group, *C. egerius* Pasc., *C. mimus* Cart., *C. undulatus* Cart. In form, it is nearest the last of these (from an adjacent region), but it is at once separated from it by the coarsely rugose prothorax and punctate elytra. In the latter character, it is near *C. mimus* Cart., which differs widely in size, form, and prothoracic structure. Types in the author's Coll.

Meneristes proximus Cart.—In these Proceedings for 1914 (p.75), I described this as a possible variety of *M. tibialis* Cart. With a number of fresh specimens from Barrington Tops before me, I am convinced that this is a good species, clearly separated from *M. tibialis* by the *nitid, impunctate prothorax and elytral intervals* besides the distinctions noted in the description.